

JUNE 1966

Once again on 22 June at 0129 Soc Trang came under a heavy mortar attack. The attack lasted 5 minutes and all rounds landed on the flight line or on the air strip itself. Eighteen aircraft from both companies were damaged; one warrior ship was totally destroyed and burned to the ground. The "T-Birds" quickly were airborne and suppressed the attack. By the end of the day all but five aircraft had been returned to operational status.

During the month of June the "Warriors" participated in fourteen airmobile operations having mission command of eight.

On 10 June at 0200 - 0400 hours a "Warrior" lightning bug team bagged 25 VC killed and 2 sampans sunk near Cao Lanh.

On 16 June at 2000 hours another lightning bug mission netted 5 VC killed and 5 sampans destroyed near Bac Lieu. The "T-Birds" drew 50 Cal. machine gun fire but did not receive any hits.

On 18 June at 2000 hours on another "lightning bug" operation a "T-Bird" was shot down near Ca Mau. The crew chief Gerald W. Warzecha was killed and the other crew members were wounded. While receiving intense fire, a "dust off" and another "T-Bird" aircraft went in and rescued the three crew members and returned to recover the body of the crew chief. Eight "slicks" lifted troops in to secure the area. Air strikes were called in and the fighting continued through the next day.

The airmobile operations were routine during June and the "T-Birds" continued getting good results as they usually do when they find "Charlie".

The "Warrior Slicks" flew 1,328 hours, the "T-Birds" flew 460 hours. The high aviator of the month logged 101 hours.

It may be interesting to note that sentry dogs were used in the defense of Soc Trang. They were used to the fullest extent possible for interior guard. Kennels for these dogs were completed this month.